

EMERGENCY EXIT FROM BUILDINGS

Buildings are required by building and fire codes to maintain free and unobstructed egress from all occupied areas and to protect the occupants and the structure from fire. The parts of a building that are particularly important in emergency exits are corridors, stairways, exits, and fire doors. Impediments to any of these four components of the emergency egress system will compromise the evacuation of occupants in an emergency.

Corridors

Corridors provide the main access path to exits in emergencies. They must remain clear and unobstructed at all times. Corridors should not be used for storage or work processes.

Stairways

Stairways must provide a continuous, unobstructed, safe path of travel between floors of a building. Space within a stairwell (stairs, landings, and space beneath stairs) may not be used for storage of any materials.

Exits

Exits must allow free and unobstructed egress from the building. All exits must be clearly recognizable, or exit routes must be conspicuously marked so that occupants can quickly escape in an emergency.

Fire Doors

Fire doors are provided in corridors to segregate a building into sections to contain the spread of fire and smoke, thereby affording occupants additional protection in a fire. Fire doors must be kept closed at all times. If doors are propped open, fire and smoke will spread freely from one section of a building to another, particularly in facilities that are not equipped with automatic fire suppression systems.

If you have questions concerning corridors, stairways, exits, or fire doors call EHS at x1451.